
Yuranigh

On 15th December, 1845, Sir Thomas Mitchell left Boree on the last of four expeditions to explore eastern Australia. Accompanying the party were three Aboriginals. One of these, Yuranigh, was to prove himself indispensable to the expedition. His skills in tracking straying stock, finding water and honey, surveying the country by climbing tall trees, keeping the peace with the tribes whose areas the party entered and his bushcraft made Mitchell say of him:

“He has been my guide and companion, counsellor and friend, on the most eventful occasions during this last journey of discovery. His intelligence and judgment rendered him so necessary to me that he was ever at my elbow, whether on foot or on horseback. Confidence in him was never misplaced. He well knew the character of all the white men of the party, nothing escaped his penetrating eye and quick ear. Yuranigh was particularly clean in his person, frequently washing,

and his glossy shining black hair, always well-combed, gave him an uncommonly clean and decent appearance.”

After the expedition, Yuranigh returned to Sydney with Mitchell, but he soon tired of the city. After a brief spell as stockman on a northern cattle station, he returned to Boree. He died there in 1850 and was buried by his people who also put inscriptions on four yellow box trees near his grave.

In March, 1852, Sir Thomas Mitchell got the government to erect a fence around the grave and he supplied a stone with a suitable inscription. In 1908 the New South Wales Premier caused a slab of marble on a base of more durable Molong marble to be erected in place of the old monument.

The monument is now a dedicated reserve maintained by the Molong Shire Council and it can be seen 1 mile off the Mitchell Highway from Molong, travelling towards Orange.



AFEC visitors to Sydney, photographed at their Presentation Evening:

*Julie Whitton (Toomelah),
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Marie Daley (Tabulam)*